

Fishery council meets Dec. 8-11 in Anchorage

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet Dec. 8 to 11 at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel to make final decisions on groundfish harvest levels for 1988 and apportionments to U.S. and foreign fisheries.

There will be a major review of foreign allocations, foreign vessel permit applications and joint ventures for next year.

Other items on the agenda include approval of membership on the council's Advisory Panel for 1988, final decisions on allocative measures in the halibut fishery, consideration of bycatch management measures recommended by the council's Bycatch Management Committee and consideration for requests to change the sablefish opening date in the Gulf of Alaska and to raise the optimum yield in the groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

The council will consider the cut-off date of Dec. 31, the time beyond which participation in the groundfish fisheries may not get full credit should a form of limited access be implemented.

The council also will receive reports on domestic and foreign fisheries, enforcement activities by the U.S. Coast Guard and a progress report on the council's pilot domestic observer program.

Other meetings during the week include: Scientific and Statistical Committee, 1:30 p.m., Dec. 6; Permit Review Committee, 2:30 p.m., Dec. 6; and the Advisory Panel, 10 a.m., Dec. 7.

The council's Advisory Panel Nominating Committee, Crab Management Committee and Observer Committee also will meet during the week, times and dates to be announced.